

Message Text

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TO USDEL ASWAN IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 055247

TOSEC 375

SECRETARY'S PARTY FOR SISCO

FOLLOWING REPEAT GENEVA 1689 -ACTION JERUSALEM, SECSTATE,
CAIRO, MARCH 12TH:

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L GENEVA 1689

FOR SISCO FROM ALDRICH

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PARM, ICRC

SUBJECT: LAW OF WAR CONFERENCE

REF: (A) JERUSALEM 433 (SECTO 189); (B) GENEVA 1475; (C) STATE
48478; (D) GENEVA 1397.

1. INFORMATION CONVEYED BY ISRAELIS IN JERUSALEM AS REPORTED
REF (A) IS INCORRECT. WE HAVE NOT REPEAT NOT BEEN TELLING OTHER
DELEGATIONS WE WOULD VOTE FOR DRAFT AMENDMENT TO ARTICLE 84.
WE HAVE SAID MERELY THAT WITHDRAWAL FROM COSPONSORSHIP DOES NOT
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NECESSARILY MEAN WE WILL VOTE AGAINST AND THAT POSSIBILITY OF

FAVORABLE VOTE WOULD PROBABLY BE IMPROVED IF ISSUE DOES NOT COME TO A VOTE SOON. THERE IS NO NEED TO DECIDE ON A FIRM POSITION NOW AS THE MATTER HAS NOT YET COME UP FOR DISCUSSION IN ANY WORKING GROUP OR MAIN COMMITTEE, AND MAY NOT COME UP THIS SESSION.

2. ISRAELI DEL IN GENEVA HAS BEEN FULLY INFORMED OF THIS POSTURE FROM THE TIME WE RECEIVED REF (C). IN ADDITION, USDEL AGAIN REVIEWED THIS STANCE WITH ISRAELI DEL ON MARCH 12. FROM THEIR REACTIONS, THEY APPEAR TO BELIEVE OUR COURSE OF ACTION A REASONABLE ONE UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES.

3. WE HAVE REFRAINED FROM SENDING A MORE DETAILED ANALYSIS THAN THAT CONTAINED REF (D), DESPITE REQUEST IN PARA 2 OF REF (C), IN VIEW OF FACT THAT I SHALL BE RETURNING TO WASHINGTON ON MARCH 17 FOR SEVERAL WEEKS AND WILL DISCUSS MATTER PERSONALLY WITH THOSE CONCERNED AT THAT TIME. I BELIEVE WE SHOULD ULTIMATELY VOTE FOR THE AMENDMENT TO ARTICLE 84, BUT A FULL UNDERSTANDING OF THE BACKGROUND IS DIFFICULT TO CONVEY IN A TELEGRAM. ALSO, I RECOGNIZE THAT THE TIMING CAN BE DECISIVE IN RELATION TO THE SECRETARY'S PRESENT EFFORTS. THEREFORE, WE ARE DOING EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO ENSURE THAT THE ISSUE DOES NOT COME TO A VOTE SOON, IF POSSIBLE, NOT UNTIL NEXT YEAR. DALE UNQUOTE INGERSOLL

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